Community Betterment Service

226.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for developing community betterment service programs that are intended to provide work opportunities for inmates and needed services to the community.

226.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Thurston County Sheriff's Office to promote community betterment service programs that provide work opportunities for inmates and will support public works projects, such as maintenance to county roadways or parks. Activities that benefit individuals, businesses or other private entities that are not considered a public works project are prohibited.

226.3 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Any community betterment service program is subject to the approval of the Chief Deputy of Corrections or the authorized designee.

Any such program shall be subject to the following guidelines:

(a) The program complies with all statutes, ordinances, regulations, labor agreements, permissions or restrictions relating to inmates whenever they are assigned to public works and community service projects.

(b) There is an availability of inmates who, as a matter of classification, are deemed to be eligible for participation in the community service program.

(c) The number of work opportunities available in the community will determine the availability of opportunities to participate in the community service program.

(d) There shall be sufficient staff assigned to supervise inmate work crews.

(e) Inmates shall receive appropriate training for the work assignment and the use of any related tools or equipment.

(f) The inmate workday should approximate the typical workday in the community for the type of work being performed. The normal work hours should not exceed eight hours per shift and must include adequate break and meal time.

(g) Inmate performance while in the program should be regularly evaluated and recorded. Poor performance in the work program or violation of rules may render the inmate ineligible to participate in the work program. Any violation of work rules may result in disciplinary action that may include the loss of credits previously awarded for good behavior and work time. Inmates who do not comply with program rules, or for any reason cannot work, will be reclassified in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Thurston County Sheriff's Office.

(h) The working conditions for any inmate must comply with all applicable federal, state or local work safety laws and regulations.

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226.4 SELECTION PROCESS

Participation in any community betterment service program is strictly voluntary. A classification process that clearly describes the criteria for program participation will be developed by the supervisor in charge of the program.

Any inmate desiring to participate in a community betterment service program is subject to the following:

(a) The inmate must submit to a screening process, including a criminal history check, to ensure that his/her criminal history is compatible with work in non-secure areas.

(b) The inmate must agree in writing to participate in a community service program.

(c) The inmate must be medically cleared in order to participate.

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